

Law Enforcement Division
Bi-Weekly Field Report
8/5/13 – 8/18/13

DISTRICT 1

CO Dennis Gast observed a boat on a small inland lake with two subjects fishing. Upon contact, CO Gast found that the boat was unregistered and there were no personal flotation devices (PFDs) on board. Both subjects were fishing without licenses, both were suspended and had warrants out for their arrest. Enforcement action was taken for the fishing violations and the subjects had to post bond to prevent a trip to the county jail.

CO Dave Miller reports there was an ORV fatality in Baraga County. The operator was not wearing a helmet and crashed his ORV. The crash was possibly the result of the operator having a heart attack.

COs Dave Miller and Mark Leadman worked several complaints of early bear baits and trespassing in Ontonagon County. Several illegal ORV trails and illegal blinds were located on private property and one illegal bear bait was located.

CO Dave Painter served a trespass warrant on a very irate subject. The charges stem from an ORV incident in which the subject pursued juveniles who were operating ORVs on the county road.

CO Dave Painter had a busy week on local lakes in Iron County. Two subjects were ticketed for fishing without a license. One subject was the third generation family member to be arrested by CO Painter for game and fish violations.

CO Marvin Gerlach contacted two subjects operating an ORV on state land in a non-permitted area. One of the subjects had an arrest warrant for failing to appear on a license suspension ticket from a local agency. Enforcement action was taken.

DISTRICT 2

COs Robert Crisp, Jerry Fitzgibbon and Mike Hammill assisted in the investigation of a suspicious situation. Clothing and other items were found on the beach near Grand Marais. The items belonged to a person from Illinois who had been reported missing. Both land and water searches were conducted with negative results.

CO Robert Crisp assisted local deputies with an ORV accident. Two youths in a side by side ORV had struck a tree head on. They were taken to Munising Hospital with minor injuries. The ORV was a complete loss.

CO Mike Hammill was on routine marine patrol on a local inland lake when he encountered a pair of anglers, one of whom didn't have a fishing license and claimed

that he wasn't fishing. Because the CO didn't actually see him fishing, he then proceeded to the boat launch, loaded his boat and left. He returned moments later and observed the angler from a concealed location. Sure enough, the subject was actively catching fish. The CO launched his boat once again and issued a ticket for fish without a license.

CO Jeff Panich stopped two subjects on Drummond Island on top of Marble Head for operating an ORV in a closed area. The illegal operation took them within inches of falling off a cliff. This safety concern was mentioned by the CO and one of the subjects complained, we're all adults here and that nobody would ever drive off a cliff." As the CO explained how quickly accidents can happen, another ORV approached and the driver accidentally hit the gas instead of the brake, causing her to crash head on into a tree. The subject was ok other than a few bumps and bruises. The incident proved the point the CO was making and was well taken by the complaining subject. Tickets were issued for operating in a closed area.

CO Kyle Publiski is investigating a subject from Drummond Island who cut 15 large maple trees from state land. Though all were good saw logs for lumber, the subject cut them all into firewood and has been selling it locally.

CO Kyle Publiski contacted a boater with a 2007 registration. When questioned, the boat operator stated he had borrowed the boat from a friend. Once CO Publiski ran the registration and found the boat to be registered to the operator, he questioned him about not telling the truth. The operator said he thought it would get him out of a ticket if he said he borrowed the boat.

DISTRICT 3

CO Bill Webster was patrolling with the U S Coast Guard (USCG) on Lake Huron checking diving vessels when they contacted a diver who was having a decompression related emergency. CO Webster, realizing the severity of the situation, arranged to have him loaded on the USCG boat and taken to a landing site where he was transported to a decompression chamber.

CO Kelly Ross contacted a boater who had an expired registration and did not have any PFDs. While talking with the operator he learned that he had rented the boat from an individual. CO Ross then contacted the owner of the boat and issued him a ticket for operating an illegal boat livery.

CO Carl VanderWall had just begun a patrol for early bear baits when he found a vehicle parked at a location he knew of for an early bait. CO VanderWall walked in and stood behind the bear baiter while he placed items for bait. When he announced his presence, the subject was quite surprised. A ticket was issued.

CO Duane Budreau served an arrest warrant for the illegal killing of a deer, which resulted from an investigation where the suspect is believed to have shot a large trophy

buck at night, with a centerfire rifle, and over an illegal bait pile during last year's muzzleloader season.

CO Carl VanderWall reports a defendant was found guilty for the illegal killing of two goslings with a paintball gun, and ordered to pay \$1,285 in fines, costs and reimbursement. He killed the geese because they were defecating on his lawn.

Sgt. Greg Drogowski recovered a stolen shotgun from a subject where a different individual was suspected of stealing the firearm. The investigation involved several people and resulted in confessions obtained from witnesses and the suspect; multiple felony charges are pending. The suspect was only recently released from prison and is still on parole/probation.

DISTRICT 4

CO Sam Koscinski was off duty at his residence when he received a call of a bear attack on a 12 year old girl who lives in his neighborhood. The 12 year old was out running on a trail through her grandfather's property when she was taken down twice, causing multiple lacerations. CO Koscinski responded immediately and administered first aid along with an off duty Michigan State Police (MSP) trooper until the girl was transported and airlifted to a hospital. CO Holly Pennoni responded to the scene and the two COs secured and investigated the attack scene and collected evidence late into the night. The following day, Sgt. Bob Torres secured the victim's clothing from the hospital. Evidence from the clothing was obtained, allowing for future identification of the responsible black bear through DNA testing. Wildlife Division set several live traps in the area with the intention of capturing the responsible bear.

Two nights after the bear attack in Wexford County, COs Sam Koscinski and Holly Pennoni responded to a complaint of a homeowner two miles from the attack site shooting and wounding a bear next to a dumpster in his driveway. The subject claimed he feared for his life after he investigated a noise he heard outside his residence. The COs were able to track down the wounded bear in the dark and safely dispatch the large male black bear. The following day, Wildlife Division was able to transport the bear to the lab in Lansing where a necropsy was performed and samples were obtained for DNA testing to determine if there is a match with the samples from the attack bear. An investigative report of the incident will be forwarded to the prosecutor for review.

CO Justin Vanderlinde responded to a complaint in Manistee County of a deer being shot illegally. CO Vanderlinde obtained a photo and name of a potential suspect. After several interviews with multiple subjects, CO Vanderlinde was able to determine who illegally shot the deer and removed the backstraps. Evidence was secured and an investigative report was forwarded to the prosecutor's office for the issuance of arrest warrants.

CO Brian Brosky was conducting surveillance in a high complaint area on the Little Manistee River when he observed a subject attempting to snag salmon. After landing

and retaining a foul hooked salmon, the subject was contacted and ticketed for the violation.

CO Mike Wells was working a complaint on the Muskegon River of subjects taking overlimits of trout. CO Wells located two subjects matching the suspect description and watched them for approximately four hours. The trout were not biting well and the subjects caught few fish. When contacted, one of the subjects possessed three undersized trout and the other possessed two undersized trout. When asked if they measured the fish, the subjects answered that they didn't have to because the trout were dead due to swallowing the hook and they didn't want to waste them. During CO Wells' observations, the subjects made no attempt to measure the fish and just threw them into their bag after unhooking the trout. The fish were seized as evidence and tickets were issued for the possession of undersized fish.

DISTRICT 5

CO Mark Papineau contacted two anglers fishing from shore on the Tittabawassee River. Upon contact, the CO observed several undersized bass and walleye floating belly-up on the water in front of the anglers. The anglers advised CO Papineau that the fish had swallowed the hook and died. As CO Papineau counted the fish in their bucket, he discovered several additional undersized bass and walleye in addition to an overlimit of panfish. At that point, both subjects admitted to dumping the undersized fish in the river upon seeing the CO. Unfortunately, they did not get them all out of their bucket. If all that was not bad enough, one of the anglers failed to purchase a fishing license. CO Papineau seized the fish and issued several tickets.

CO Brian Olsen was on marine patrol when he observed an unregistered personal watercraft (PWC). Upon contact, it was learned the operator was a juvenile without the proper safety certificate. CO Olsen gave a verbal warning for the violations to the juvenile and his father. Two days later, CO Olsen located the same unregistered PWC operating on the same lake with the same father who had been warned earlier. A different approach was taken this time with a ticket issued for the violation.

CO Brian Olsen checked anglers on a lake in Roscommon County. As he approached, the CO asked how the fishing was. The anglers responded that they had caught a few panfish. After checking their licenses, CO Olsen asked to look at the fish. It was then that the anglers began acting nervous and stated they also had a couple 12 inch walleye in their bucket. Enforcement action was taken for possession of undersized walleye.

Patrolling a dirt county road CO Mike Hearn observed two ORVs on private property waiting for traffic to clear so they could cross the road and head onto a seasonal road which leads to the Leetsville ORV trail. CO Hearn contacted the operators and advised the riders that if they were heading off their property they needed helmets and they were not allowed to be riding double. The riders acknowledged CO Hearn and he watched them head back onto their property. CO Hearn presumed his warning would

not be heeded so he circled around the pipeline and came up the back side of where the riders were originally headed. CO Hearn sat for less than five minutes before the same two ORVs appeared, still operating double and with only one person wearing a helmet. Upon stopping the pair it was determined one machine didn't have an ORV license and the driver was also suspended. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Mike Hearn was patrolling a parcel of private land that historically has had ORV trespass issues. While leaving the property he observed three subjects walking down the private drive who had just gotten out of a van on the county road. As soon as the subjects observed the CO, they ran into the woods. CO Hearn made a traffic stop on the van, and identified the driver as the mother of a juvenile in the group. She called her son and he returned to the road, now shirtless, with his 17 year old friend. The third person was identified but was not found. The juvenile has been told several times not to be on the property. He was released to his mother, and the 17 year old was told to walk home. A deputy arrived on scene and took a quick walk following their path through the woods. A cold bottle of cola was found, along with an unopened pint of whisky. It just so happens the 17 year old and 18 year old were on probation for alcohol related violations and due in court the next day. Contact was made with their probation officers.

COs Mike Hearn and Matt Liestenfeltz were on marine patrol on Torch River. They observed a pontoon boat with registration issues and a stop was made on the vessel for a registration check. The operator was under the influence and failed the sobriety test. He refused the breath test and a search warrant was obtained and his blood was taken at the local hospital. The subject was lodged in the Kankakee County jail for operating a vessel under the influence of alcohol.

CO Murray Cherry was on a lengthy foot patrol in the Deadstream Swamp when he located two individuals operating a golf cart and tending an early bait. The subjects claimed it was a deer bait, not a bear bait. The subjects were ticketed for baiting for deer prior to October 1.

CO Chris Bowen responded to a wildfire complaint in Roscommon County. During his investigation of the origin, it was determined that a subject had been shooting Dragons Breath Shotgun Shells, which are essentially large firecrackers. The subject admitted to shooting the explosive which led to the start and escape of a wildfire. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Bowen responded to and was the first on scene at a rollover vehicle accident on I-75. The victim was ejected from the vehicle and sustained multiple injuries. CO Bowen provided first aid until Emergency Medical Services (EMS) arrived on scene. The subject was transported to the hospital for multiple injuries.

CO Chris Bowen was on patrol on state land and heard a chainsaw in the distance. The area has been subject to multiple complaints of illegal wood cutting in the past. CO Bowen could not locate the subjects via any two-track, so he tracked the subjects by walking on foot. He made contact with a subject who had driven his vehicle off road a

substantial distance and was in the act of cutting standing trees. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chris Bowen was on patrol and made contact with a wood cutter. He witnessed the subjects cutting a standing live oak tree. During the interview, the subjects told CO Bowen they cut the live oak tree because there was a dead limb at the top of it that they couldn't get to. The subjects were ticketed.

CO Chuck McPherson responded to a wood cutting complaint in Kalkaska County along the Manistee River. It was alleged the wood cutting was taking place in the Natural Rivers Corridor. CO McPherson located the site, but the suspect had already left. He was able to determine the wood was not in the Natural Rivers Corridor, but the subject was cutting standing trees. The CO suspected the individual would probably return to get the rest of the wood that he left behind. CO McPherson waited for one hour near the site, and when the subject returned and started cutting, was contacted by CO McPherson. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Chuck McPherson responded to an anonymous litter complaint in Roscommon County. The complainant left the name and address of an individual dumping an excessive amount of brush on state land, as well as driving an ORV in a closed area. CO McPherson interviewed the subject after identifying the litter site, and obtained a confession. A ticket was issued for littering and a warning given for operating an ORV in a closed area.

DISTRICT 6

CO Chad Foerster was working the local access sites on the Saginaw River when he observed a boat coming into the launch. The boat got within 100 yards and turned around. The CO yelled for him to turn back around and come into the launch, and the operator complied. The subject had two undersized walleye on board. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joshua Wright received a complaint that a person who was metal detecting on state land found an unusual object that was buried. CO Wright went to the complainant's house and quickly identified the objects as pipe bombs and a shrapnel bomb. The residences around the complainant's house were quickly evacuated and the MSP Bomb Squad was called to the scene. The bomb squad determined that all the components were there for seven pipe bombs and one shrapnel bomb, but none of them were completely put together. Further investigation is being conducted by the CO and the MSP.

CO Bob Hobkirk stopped a subject operating an ORV on the roadway with a young child as a passenger and neither were wearing helmets. CO Hobkirk recognized the subject as a person he had just submitted a warrant request for regarding a separate violation. During this contact, the young man was issued a ticket for no helmet.

While conducting a marine patrol out of Port Austin, Sgt. Tony Soave and CO Bob Hobkirk checked a fishing vessel with two occupants on board. When the subjects were asked for licenses, one subject stated that he was a non-resident and did not have a license. At that time the other subject stated that he was fishing with too many lines. A ticket was issued for fishing with greater than three lines and a warning was given to the non-resident.

COs Seth Rhodea and Josh Wright were patrolling in the Rush Lake State Game Area (SGA) when they were contacted by the owner of a jeep. After a short conversation, the COs left to work an area of illegal ORV and motor vehicle hill climbing. After waiting for only a few minutes, the owner of the jeep that the COs had just talked with attempted to climb the hill and was promptly contacted and issued a ticket.

CO Jason A Smith encountered a non-resident operating an ORV in a closed area. Upon further examination of the ATV, CO Smith discovered the subject had altered an expired registration to make it appear valid. Enforcement action was taken and cash bond was taken from the non-resident.

CO Nick Atkin was checking anglers on the Saginaw Bay when he came across a single angler actively fishing with four lines. As soon as the angler could make out the approaching CO vessel, he started to quickly reel in the fourth line. During the investigation, the CO found the angler had a prior arrest for fishing with too many lines. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Dan Lee watched a couple of anglers for a while on a local river. When he contacted the pair, one of the men stated that he was not fishing. The CO asked the angler to come with him to his patrol truck and bring the pole he had been using to fish. The man picked up a pole and followed the CO to his truck before realizing he had just admitted to fishing, and lying about it.

COs Quincy Gowenlock and Sgt. Ron Kimmerly conducted a joint marine patrol on the Saginaw River. As soon as the COs pulled away from the pier, they observed a boater coming downstream that was pushing a big wall of water and leaving a large wake in a no-wake zone. The subject was stopped and the subject related he didn't think he was going that fast. Sgt. Kimmerly asked the subject if that was true why did he slow down to no-wake speed when he saw the COs. The subject was unable to answer the question and was ticketed for the wake violation.

While on marine patrol in Montcalm County, CO Ken Lowell stopped a boat for a slow wake violation. When the CO asked for the operator to produce some life jackets he came up two life jackets short. There was also a child who was five years old who was not wearing a life jacket while the boat was underway. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Joel Lundberg was watching two anglers with binoculars. The CO recognized one of the anglers as an individual he had ticketed for keeping bass during the closed season during a prior year. The CO continued to watch and then observed the one he

recognized keep what appeared to be a short bass. The angler then put it in a bucket and hid it in the woods. The CO contacted the anglers and asked if they had caught any fish. Both said no. The CO then went into the woods and brought the bucket out and showed them the short bass. The CO also found a stringer in the water with several short walleye. The anglers did not have much to say and were each issued a ticket.

DISTRICT 7

CO Michael Mshar located tree stands set out too early in the Fennville Farm Unit in Allegan County. Contact was made with the hunters and enforcement action was taken. Hunters should be reminded that tree stands and portable ground blinds may not be set out on state owned lands until September 1st.

While patrolling Lake Michigan, CO Michael Mshar contacted a boat owner displaying a permanent dealer registration plate. The investigation revealed that he did not meet the requirements for a dealer registration. The dealer information was turned over to the Department of Treasury for further investigation.

COs Andy Bauer and Steve Mooney patrolled Lake Michigan for marine and fishing activity and observed two separate boats fishing with too many lines; in addition to locating five subjects on the piers fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Andy Bauer worked the St. Joseph River system for illegal fishing activity related to summer run steelhead. CO Bauer observed a man and his 16 year old son fishing near a dam. CO Bauer watched the father offer his son a drink from a plastic water bottle, and when he turned it down; the father drank the water and threw the bottle into the river. CO Bauer made contact and issued the subject a ticket for littering.

CO Andy Bauer and Sgt. Zach Doss patrolled Lake Michigan over the weekend, and observed a 39 foot boat from Illinois being operated without registration and with a five year old boy on board who was not wearing a PFD. Upon stopping the vessel, the owner stated that the boat was documented and therefore did not need to be registered. After an explanation of the law, enforcement action was taken for both offenses.

DISTRICT 8

CO Rich Nickols, while on marine patrol with CO Daniel Prince, observed a subject operating a PWC and was unable to see a registration. At one point the operator hit a wake and almost flew completely off the machine. After contacting the operator, the COs observed a valid registration but found the operator had never taken boater safety as required and was unable to locate the required fire extinguisher. The subject was very unfamiliar with marine laws about PWCs. A ticket was issued for no boater safety.

COs Dan Bigger and Pete Purdy observed and arrested an operator of a vessel for operating while intoxicated. The subject was boating under the influence of alcohol and arrested on Thompson Lake.

CO Todd Thorn swore to two separate warrants involving illegal deer hunting activity that occurred during last year's firearm deer season. The arrests resulted from a complaint received in July of a deer that was shot by one neighbor and tagged and taken by another neighbor after the deer ran onto his property. An investigation revealed that the man who shot the deer did not have kill tags for them. Three warrant charges were sworn to.

While patrolling a stretch of the Grand River with a ride along, CO Todd Thorn came across a man fishing from the bank. The man had no ID or fishing license. After some discussion, the man was identified and found to be a sex offender out of compliance. The MSP was contacted and made aware of the situation, and enforcement action was taken.

While conducting a late night patrol in the Rose Lake Wildlife Area, CO Rich Nickols came across an extremely large party on state land. Over one hundred college age subjects had gathered for the party and many were still arriving when CO Nickols came across them. CO Nickols was able to coordinate with township and county police officers to disperse the crowd. Many of the under 21 subjects had not consumed any alcohol (yet) and were warned for the state land violations. The investigation is continuing into the organizer of the party.

While on marine patrol, CO Rich Nickols observed three subjects who were shore fishing and getting ready to leave. CO Nickols watched a subject pull a stringer out of the water and put it in a cooler. It appeared that there were a couple questionable sized bass on the stringer. CO Nickols beached his patrol boat and contacted the subjects at their vehicle. One bass was 13 inches and the other was 14 inches. The subject who caught the bass also had a warrant for his arrest. A ticket was issued and the subject was turned over to the MSP on the warrant.

CO Rich Nickols, while on marine patrol, observed a PWC being operated on a lake one half hour after legal hours ended. CO Nickols contacted the operator who was pulling a tube across the lake. The operator said he had become lost on the lake and was trying to find his way back. While escorting the PWC back to shore, it ran out of gas and had to be towed the rest of the way. The 17 year old operator had not taken boater safety. CO Nickols addressed the issues with the subject's parents at the dock.

DISTRICT 9

COs Kris Kiel, Mike Drexler, and Todd Szyska contacted the operator of a 38 foot yacht due to it not displaying a Michigan registration. The owner/operator of the vessel had never checked on the status of his expired temporary registration permit. In fact the operator/owner stated he had an additional temporary permit issued that was 10 days

more current than the one he had handed over. Unfortunately, that permit and the one in hand still showed that the vessel was overdue 20 days from the last issued temporary registration. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel, Mike Drexler, and Todd Szyska stopped a 48 foot cabin cruiser which wasn't displaying a Michigan registration. The vessel was displaying Franklin Michigan on the stern. When discussing the issue with the captain of the vessel he announced that he was documented. The owner/captain has had the vessel for 20 years, had lived in Florida, Ohio, etc., but, for several years has been back and claimed Michigan residency. The captain/Owner was explained the laws of registration, and enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel, Mike Drexler, and Todd Szyska contacted several anglers on a yacht, fishing on Lake St. Clair. Two subjects were standing on the back of the water deck transom of the vessel with fishing poles in hand. When asked for their fishing licenses, the third member of the vessel did all the talking. The speaker was the father and was trying to talk on behalf of his son and his nephew. However, both male subjects were 18 and 17, and neither of them had a fishing license. Further, the nephew stated he did not have his license on him, and then it materialized magically out of his pocket after more questioning. The nephew was an Alaska resident here on vacation. The spokesperson stated he had taken the boys to the local fishing store to buy the licenses, but his son did not have his driver's license with him and nothing was really said about the Alaska nephew. However, the spokesperson was clear to state that he did purchase his fishing license that day and bought the night crawlers. Enforcement action was taken as well as \$100 dollars bond for the out of state Alaska resident.

COs Kris Kiel, Mike Drexler, and Todd Szyska contacted two subjects in a small inflatable rowboat one mile off shore from Metro Beach. The small inflatable was being tossed around violently by large vessel wake. The vessel was occupied by a 24 year old subject and his nine year old nephew. No PFDs were on board the vessel. When the adult was asked why they did not have any life jackets, his response was that his nephew was "a real good swimmer". It was decided immediately to place the nine year old, the adult, and the rowboat onboard the patrol boat. The adult, child, and rowboat were driven back to a residence several canals off of the lake. Enforcement action was taken.

COs Kris Kiel, Mike Drexler, and Todd Szyska contacted a vessel with one subject fishing for smallmouth bass in Lake St. Clair. When asked how the fishing was, the subject stated it was good but he really wanted catfish. In the angler's catch however an overlimit of smallmouth bass was discovered. The smallmouth bass overlimit totaled six. Not only was the subject in possession of an overlimit of smallmouth bass, but four of the six bass were also undersized. Enforcement action was taken.

While checking vessels near the dumping grounds of Southern Lake St. Clair, COs Kris Kiel, Mike Drexler, and Todd Szyska checked a duo fishing for smallmouth bass. When asked how the fishing was, the owner/operator stated it was ok and that they had

caught a couple of bass. When looking in the cooler a 13" largemouth bass was discovered. The owner/operator of the vessel made a comment that he knew better. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Kris Kiel checked a small parcel of Detroit Edison property known for illegal ORV activity and contacted three subjects operating ORVs. All were trespassing and none had licensed their ORVs. Enforcement action was taken. While leaving the property, CO Kiel stopped two more ORVs operating on the roadway passing along the Edison property. These subjects were operating on the roadway, without helmets, and no ORV licenses. Additional enforcement action was taken.

CO Ken Kovach worked an early baiting complaint in Genesee County taken from Facebook. CO Ken Kovach met with the subject and found that the suspect was baiting for deer too early. Enforcement action was taken.

CO Ben Lasher had a warrant signed for a deer that was taken at night with a bow. The case hinged upon evidence that was seized from search warrants obtained by CO Lasher. The evidence included incriminating digital images of the deer taken off of trail cam pictures that were on the subject's home computer.

CO Ken Kovach was patrolling Beards Hills in the Port Huron SGA when he happened upon two subjects fishing in the Black River. The subjects turned out to be brothers and they both were fishing without licenses. Enforcement action was taken.